



Boating Guide



Precautions

Tide and currents

The change between high and low tide sometimes creates strong currents which can be dangerous for even experienced boaters. Be aware of the currents and tides, especially at the mouth of Tomales Bay and Drakes Estero. Low tides reveal mudflats not seen during high tides. Tides can be an hour different from the mouth of Tomales Bay to Marshall Beach.

Wind and Water

The winds can pick up unexpectedly, especially in the afternoon. Listen to the forecast on weather radio stations for the most useful information to boaters. Both Tomales Bay and Drakes Estero can act

as wind tunnels, making return journeys difficult. Water temperatures average 55°F in the ocean and Drakes Bay, slightly warmer during summer in Tomales Bay. Once in the water, hypothermia can set in quickly. Wetsuits are suggested.

White Sharks

Two white shark attacks occurred at the mouth of Tomales Bay in 1996 and one occurred at the mouth of Drakes Estero in 2005. Sharks may be found anywhere there is a seal haul-out area. In Tomales Bay, the area north of Tom’s Point, Hog Island and Pelican Point are the most likely areas to encounter white sharks.

Hypothermia

Symptoms of hypothermia include

uncontrollable fits of shivering, slurred speech, and frequent stumbling. Without treatment, the condition may lead to stupor, collapse, and death.

Preparation

Know the area and what to expect. Obtain maps, charts, and park information. Bring adequate food and water. Have dry clothes and equipment to keep you warm and dry. Know some first aid and bring a first aid kit. If you plan to fish, purchase a California State Fishing License. All state fish and game regulations are enforced in the seashore.

NOTE: Personal flotation devices are required and should be worn at all times when on the water.

Wildlife

Often when people see a marine mammal on the beach, they attempt to pet, feed, or pick up the animal. These attempts usually frighten and sometimes injure the animal, and are against the law. **You can best help an injured or sick animal by leaving it alone** and reporting it immediately to those trained to deal with these situations.

Seals and sea lions often haul out on land to rest. They may stay on the beach for up to two weeks if they are molting (losing and then growing new fur). Mother seals frequently leave their pups alone on the beach when they feed and

will not return to her pup if people or dogs are within sight.

A sick or injured marine mammal will interpret an approach by a person or dog as a threat, and do its best to defend itself. In doing so, the animal could seriously injure anyone trying to help. At the very least, the animal will use up energy needed for recovery. Seals and sea lions can also carry diseases that are contagious to people and dogs.

If you come across an animal that is sick, injured, or dead call the park dispatch center at 415-464-5170 or the park's visitor center at 415-464-5137. Report the location and identifying characteristics

of the animal. Never attempt to remove an animal from or return it to the water. Do not wrap the animal in blankets or clothing. Trembling animals are not usually cold, but they may be in shock.



Summer through winter, brown pelicans - a federally listed endangered species - roost on islands and floats. They use Pelican Point and Hog Island as resting areas while they are at Point Reyes. Seabirds are protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and some, such as the Brown Pelican, are also protected by the Endangered Species Act. Avoid areas where large numbers of birds are resting. Do not “flush” or harass birds from their resting areas.

Wildlife Protection Closures:

The east side of Hog Island is closed for overnight and day use to provide a haul-

out site for harbor seals and a roosting area for pelicans.

Pelican Point is closed for overnight and day use to provide a peaceful resting area for pelicans.

South Blue Gum Beach is closed seasonally from March 1 - June 30 each year for seal protection.

Drakes and Limantour Esteros are closed seasonally from March 1 - June 30 each year for seal protection. They are closed year round to motorized craft.

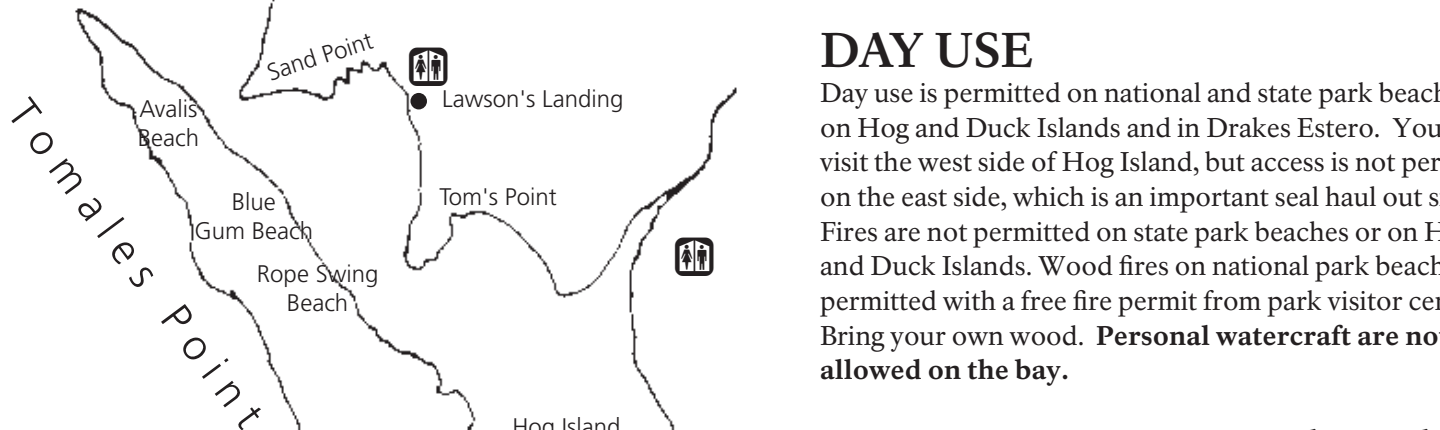
Dogs are prohibited on national park beaches on Tomales Bay. Check with Tomales Bay State Park at 415-669-1140 for state park regulations.

NOTE: The Marine Mammal Protection law of 1972 prohibits taking or harassing marine mammals with a civil penalty of up to \$10,000. Harassment is defined as any act that has the potential to disturb a marine mammal by causing disruption of behavioral patterns, including but not limited to migration, breathing, nursing, breeding, feeding or sheltering.

OVERNIGHT USE

Boat-in camping by permit is allowed on the beaches of Point Reyes National Seashore on the west side of Tomales Bay, which begin north of Indian Beach in Tomales Bay State Park. Camping on state park beaches is prohibited. Hog and Duck Islands and Pelican Point are closed to overnight use. Potable water is not available. Firearms and fireworks are prohibited. Remove all waste. **No camping in Drakes or Limantour Esteros.** State Park info: (415) 669-1140 <http://www.parks.ca.gov/> National Park info: (415) 663-8054 or <http://www.nps.gov/pore/> or <http://www.tomalesbay.net/>

FEES AND PERMITS FOR WEST SIDE CAMPING: Call the National Seashore reservation office at (415) 663-8054, Monday-Friday between 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. \$15/night for 1-6 people; \$30 night for 7-14 people; \$40 night for 15-25 people.



ACCESS

Lawson's Landing 707-878-2443
The campground and boat launch are located in Dillon Beach. Gas, dump station, restrooms, and water are available. \$7.00 day use fee and \$22.00 tent / \$25.00 trailers overnight fee. (<http://www.lawsonslanding.com/>)

Miller County Park 415-499-6387
Also known as Nick's Cove. Located on the east side of Tomales Bay north of Marshall on Hwy. 1. The county park has a public boat launch and pier. \$5.00 day use fee and/or \$10.00 for overnight parking. Overnight parking is permitted in the upper lot, on the right. (<http://www.marincountyparks.org/>)

Tomales Bay State Park 415-669-1140
The state park has two access points on the bay, **Hearts Desire Beach and Millerton Point.** (<http://www.parks.ca.gov/>)

Hearts Desire Beach is a day use only area on the west side of the bay. Restrooms and water are available. You will need to carry your boat approximately 100 yards for sandy beach access. If the beach parking lot is full, unload and park in the picnic area lot. Overnight parking is prohibited. \$6.00 per vehicle fee. Exact change required for self-registration. Orange floats are placed in the water in summer to indicate the swimming area. Boaters may pull onto the beach south of the floats. Motorized vessels are prohibited within 100 feet of the swim area markers.

Millerton Point is located on the east side of the bay, three miles north of Point Reyes Station on Hwy. 1. You will need to carry your boat approximately 100 yards to the water. It is best used at high tides since this section of the bay is very shallow. No overnight parking or beach camping. Pit toilet available.

Golden Hinde Inn and Marina 415-669-1389
The marina and motel are located on the west side of the bay, north of Inverness on Sir Francis Drake Highway. A cement boat launch is available. Day and overnight parking is permitted with a boat launch fee of \$5.00/kayak and \$10.00 for all other boats. Overnight parking is an additional \$10.00 per night. (<http://www.goldenhinde.com/>)

DAY USE

Day use is permitted on national and state park beaches and on Hog and Duck Islands and in Drakes Estero. You may visit the west side of Hog Island, but access is not permitted on the east side, which is an important seal haul out site. Fires are not permitted on state park beaches or on Hog and Duck Islands. Wood fires on national park beaches are permitted with a free fire permit from park visitor centers. Bring your own wood. **Personal watercraft are not allowed on the bay.**

Human Waste and Garbage

Never dispose of any waste into the bay. Use toilets located on the map or pack it out! Never pump boat-holding tanks into the bay. All human waste should be disposed of into a sanitary sewage system, a pit toilet or dump station. Dump stations are located at: Lawson Landing in Dillon Beach (707-878-2443) and Olema Ranch Campground (415-633-8001) in Olema.

Portable toilets are available at Clavey River Equipment, Petaluma (707) 766-8070. These are compact size for kayaks and larger boats and should be emptied into dump stations or pit toilets.

Portable toilets should be emptied into dump stations or pit toilets.

**IN AN EMERGENCY - CONTACT U.S. COAST
GUARD STATION BODEGA BAY ON VHF CHANNEL 16
OR PHONE 911 (MARIN COUNTY DISPATCH)**